

Prayer of Lament

An Example of Daily Prayer in a Time of Need

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This example is intended to give one illustration of how the pattern for daily prayer might be realized to meet the needs of a particular context and circumstance, and is not intended to present a normative use. In this example, the elements of psalm/song/word and praying unfold within each of the movements of lament, petition, and thanksgiving.

OPENING

O God, be not far from us.

Come quickly to help us, O God.

The Lord is near to those who call.

Oh, come, let us worship the Lord.

LAMENT

PSALM 13

How long, O Lord?

How long, O Lord?

How long, O Lord?

Will you forget me forever?

How long will you hide your face from me?

How long will I wrestle within myself?

Will sorrow be within my heart day after day?

How long will my enemy triumph over me?

How long, O Lord?

How long, O Lord?

PRAYING

Prayers of lamentation are spoken on behalf of the world, the society, and the local community.

Silence for reflection and meditation follows. A musical response may also follow.

All speak the concluding prayer:

O Lord, we are in great need. How long will you forget us?

Our life is difficult, and yet you hide your face from us.

We are troubled; day after day our problems remain; we find no help.

How long, O Lord, will our enemies triumph over us?

PETITION

PSALM 13

How long, O Lord?

How long, O Lord?

Look at me; answer me, O Lord my God.
Enlighten my eyes lest I sleep the sleep of death,
lest my enemy says, "I have defeated you";
lest my adversaries rejoice because I am shaken.

How long, O Lord?

How long, O Lord?

PRAYING

Petitions and intercessions are spoken on behalf of the world, the society, and the local community.

Silence for reflection and meditation follows. A musical response may also follow.

All speak the concluding prayer:

O Lord, look upon us and answer us!

Lead us through the time of trial.

Grant us light to see the way.

Let us not be defeated, lest we become the delight of our enemies.

THANKSGIVING

PSALM 13

How long, O Lord?

How long, O Lord?

But I trust in your unfailing love;
my heart rejoices in your salvation.
Let me sing to the Lord,
who has dealt bountifully with me.

How long, O Lord?

How long, O Lord?

PRAYING

Prayers of thanksgiving are spoken on behalf of the world, the society, and the local community.

Silence for reflection and meditation follows. A musical response may also follow.

All speak the concluding prayer:

**O Lord, we trust in your unfailing love.
Our hearts rejoice in your salvation,
for you are near to those who call upon you.
We sing praise to you for your most bounteous gift,
Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.**

Almighty God bless us,
guide us and defend us,
and lead us into life.

Amen.

[Daily Prayer. Renewing Worship, vol. 7. Daily Prayer.

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